

WPX APE Fee 1 - January 21, 2020 Release - Chronology of Events

**1. January 21, 2020 at 9:12 AM MST:** Voicemail message left for Mike Bratcher NMOCD-Artesia from Robert Raup, HSE Supervisor for WPX Energy Tulsa Oklahoma 539-573-7314. Message indicated a WPX well experienced a hole in the flowline causing a mist of oil and produced water to be blown on an adjacent property owner's car, fencing and property. WPX has employees on scene and property owner had notified fire department and police department. Mr. Raup stated an email notification would follow.

**2. January 21, 2020 at 9:20 AM MST:** Email notification received by Mike Bratcher, Victoria Venegas and Robert Hamlet (NMOCD-Artesia) from Robert Raup with WPX indicating the release was from the APE Fee 1 well located south of Carlsbad New Mexico. The release was described as a small hole that had developed in the well flowline caused misted light fluids to be blown across a road and onto a neighbor's property. The address was listed as "701 or S. Thomason Rd." The notification indicated the neighbor contacted emergency services and WPX was notified.

**3. January 21, 2020 at 4:05 PM MST:** Property owner, Penny Aucoin contacted Gilbert Cordero, NMOCD-Artesia to advise OCD of the release that had impacted her property. Mr. Cordero provided Mike Bratcher with the property owner's contact number shortly after receipt of the phone call.

**4. January 21, 2020 at 4:40 PM MST:** Mike Bratcher contacted the property owner, Ms. Penny Aucoin, at 575-749-9312. Ms. Aucoin relayed the following:

Ms. Aucoin indicated that she and her husband reside at 6227 Thomason Rd, in Eddy County, just south of Carlsbad NM, and that their residence is across the road from the WPX well site. At 2:38 AM, MST on January 21, 2019, she and her husband were awakened by their dog barking. Moments after waking up, they heard what was described as a loud pop. When they went outside to investigate, they relayed feeling a light mist falling on them, and initially thought it to be light rain. There was a very strong smell of gas, so they contacted emergency services, via 911. The first responder was a local county Fire Department (also responding to the incident, was an Eddy County Deputy Sherriff). Once the area was illuminated by the fire truck, they were able to identify the mist as a plume of produced fluid emanating from the adjacent well site flowline, from an apparent rupture in that flow line. Emergency services contacted WPX personnel to secure the site. Ms. Aucoin indicated that the fluid had coated her, her husband, their residence, automobiles, trailers and livestock with a film of oil and water. It was later determined that the livestock consisted of 18 chickens and 1 goat. WPX mobilized personnel to the site to secure the location, repair the flowline, and also, power wash affected surfaces and assist in washing the livestock with Dawn soap. MicroBlaze was utilized in washing down the property. The livestock were removed from the site and are currently being boarded at another location.

**5. January 22, 2020 at 4:02 PM MST:** Ms. Aucoin contacted Gilbert Cordero. Mr. Cordero reported the following:

On 1/22/20 at 4:02 pm I received a call from Penny Aucoin to discuss the release from the WPX well, Ape Fee 001, API 30-015-42101. She informed me that someone from WPX told her they could bring in a load of top soil to spread out in her yard but she knew that would be only a thin covering for the size of her yard. They also wanted her to keep her goat and chickens penned up and fed from bowls to let the MicroBlaze work. She felt if she could talk to someone in person it would help and asked if I could come out to see what had happened. She told me that they did not know what to do as a local veterinarian

was taking care of her animals for free, they don't have any extra money and didn't know how long it would take to get her yard cleaned.

**6. January 23, 2020 at 9:50 AM MST:** New Mexico Environment Department generated an incident report for this release. Notification ID 14052. The report was provided from Stephen Connolly, Incident Response Coordinator, Hazardous Waste Bureau, New Mexico Environment Department, to Jim Griswold NMOCD-Santa Fe at 2:17 PM, and then forwarded to Mike Bratcher NMOCD-Artesia at 2:34 PM.

**7. January 23, 2020 at approximately 12:00 PM MST:** Mike Bratcher and Gilbert Cordero performed an inspection of the well site and met with Ms. Aucoin on the affected property. The following was noted:

On January 23, 2019, Mike Bratcher and Gilbert Cordero mobilized to inspect the well site and meet with Ms. Aucoin. The well site consists of a single well head, configured as a flowing well. The fluid storage for this well is at a Central Tank Battery, located approximately 1/2 mile north of the well. All areas of the well site and tank battery site appeared normal, with no deficiencies observed. There was a backhoe parked just north of the SW corner of the well pad, adjacent to the well flow line. This portion of the flow line is buried, and after the line was repaired, it was reburied so a visual inspection of the line was not possible at the time of this site inspection. It was noted that a pressure gauge mounted on the tubing/well head, read 400 psi. An inspection of the Aucoin property showed very little sign of the release, indicating that the pressure washing operation by WPX was likely somewhat effective. There was an older boat located toward the back of the property with evidence of a very light, oily coating on the windshield and light covers. Two chicken watering devices were observed as having some discoloration on the sides facing the area of the release, along with a plastic crate that still exhibited the same light, oily coating as the boat. There was no evidence of the release observed on the ground on the Aucoin property. An adjacent dirt road located just south of the Aucoin property had a layer of fresh caliche laid down with very slight indications of discoloration observed on the extreme edges of the road bed.

Upon return to the District office, Mike Bratcher attempted to contact Mr. Raup to see if a soil sampling event could be scheduled. The call went to voicemail and a message was left to contact the OCD.

A review of production reports for this well indicates that the last month of full production (31 days) was in August, 2019. The production was reported as a total (production from two pools) of 475 bbls oil, 925 bbls produced water, and 48 MCF gas. The well is configured as a flowing well, so assuming 24 hour/day production, total fluid production from the well would be 1.88 bbls/hour. It should be noted that current production is unknown and could return a different value than is listed here.

**8. January 24, 2020 at 5:05 PM MST:** A letter titled "Request for Confirmation of Compliance with 19.15.29 NMAC" is sent to Robert Raup WPX Energy, from Adrienne Sandoval NMOCD Division Director.

**9. January 26, 2020 at 4:27 PM MST:** A response is received by NMOCD from Robert Raup, WPX Energy. Included with the response letter, was a NMOCD Form C-141 Release Notification.

**10. January 29, 2020 at 7:39 PM MST:** An email is received by NMOCD from Robert Raup, WPX Energy with the following attachments:

- Additional response to NMOCD January 24, 2020 request.

- Document titled “Assessment Report and Proposed Remediation Work Plan WPX Energy Permian Inc. APE Fee #001 Eddy County, New Mexico”
- Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for Produced Water

In this email, Mr. Raup indicated that WPX would distribute this information to the affected property owners on Friday (January 31, 2020).

**11. January 30, 2020:** The Form C-141 Release Notification was entered in the NMOCD Data Base and assigned incident number NVV2003029246.

**12. January 30, 2020 at 1:00 PM MST:** Mike Bratcher and Gilbert Cordero met with Ms. Aucoin at her residence. Additional individuals in attendance during this meeting were Dave Rogers, Ms. Aucoin’s church pastor, and Denton McCullough, a family friend. Mr. Rogers stated that there was slight precipitation in the area on the day of the release event. Ms. Aucoin expressed concern that the roof of the mobile homes on her property had not been power washed and that run-off from the roof could be compounding at the base of the mobile home/homes. Ms. Aucoin also stated that the personnel that performed the power washing (on the day of the release) initially had on white haz-mat suites but shortly after she asked about the suits, they were removed. She advised that the owner of the impacted road just south of her property was Mr. Neeb, and that his residence was west of her property. Ms. Aucoin also expressed some concern for her neighbors on the north side of her property, in that they had small children that played in the front yard of their residence. During OCD’s initial site visit on the day of the release, Mike Bratcher walked the north side of the property, and along the shared fence line. No visual evidence of the release having affected that portion of the property was observed.